

Amendments to the Claims

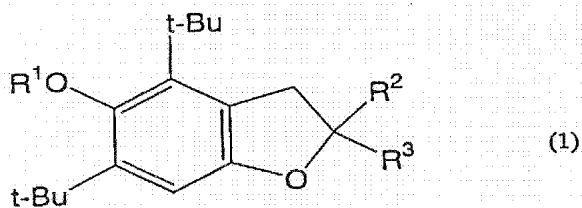
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~prevention and/or~~ treatment of fatty liver or hepatic disease, comprising administering a compound of the formula (1):

[Chemical Formula 3]



where

R¹ is a hydrogen atom, an acyl group, or an arylalkoxycarbonyl group; and

R² and R³ are each independently a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkynyl group, or R² and R³ may jointly form a cycloalkyl group,

to a patient in need of such prevention and/or treatment.

18. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein R¹ is a hydrogen atom.

19. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein R² and R³ are each an unsubstituted alkyl group.

20. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the unsubstituted alkyl group is an n-butyl group, an n-pentyl group, an n-hexyl group, or an n-heptyl group.

21. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-butyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-hexyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran, or 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-heptyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

22. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the compound of the formula (1) is 4,6-di-t-butyl-5-hydroxy-2,2-di-n-pentyl-2,3-dihydrobenzofuran.

23. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the prevention and/or treatment of hepatic disease are or is ascribed to leakage of hepatic enzymes.

24. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

25. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic disease associated with the fatty liver.

26. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the fatty liver is nonalcoholic fatty liver.

27. (Currently Amended) The method~~composition~~ according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is bacterial or chemical-induced hepatic function disorder.

28. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is chronic or acute hepatitis.

29. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the hepatitis is viral.

30. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is hepatic cirrhosis.

31. (Currently Amended) The method composition according to claim 17, wherein the hepatic disease is liver cancer.